

the actinic. *A. nigra* was more abundant this time, *lichenea* and *hispidia* were still common, but *l-album* was represented by only one individual. With things becoming slack at the lights by 4 a.m., we decided to pack up and travel home before the roads filled up, completing the journey in $3\frac{1}{4}$ hours to find there were signs of a ground frost in Warwickshire.

The next journey south was on 26th October to the New Forest in the hope of *ornitopus*. Sixteen species of macros appeared but unfortunately no *ornitopus*. *Agrochola macilenta* (Hübner) was abundant, and in good variety, *Eupsilia transversa* (Hufnagel) was also fairly common and in good condition. It was interesting to note that this species preferred the actinic lights to the brighter m.v. lights. *Thera firmata* (Hübner) and *T. obeliscata* (Hübner) were frequent, together with late *Tiliacea aurago* (Denis and Schiffermoller) and *Gryposia aprilina* (Linnaeus).

My 77th and final nocturnal expedition of the year took me to the Chilterns for *Ptilophora plumigera* (Denis and Schiffermuller) on the 8th November. I arrived at 5.30 p.m. by which time it was quite dark. I quickly arranged my two m.v. lights and two actinics. Climatic conditions were ideal with a temperature of over 50°F., no wind, and a very light drizzle of rain. By 8.30 p.m. 85 *plumigera*, all males in splendid condition had arrived, including 40 in one actinic trap! Other visitors on this mild evening were late *T. aurago* and *A. macilenta*, one *E. transversa*, many *vaccinii*, singletons of *Episema caeruleocephala* (Linnaeus) and *Agrochola circellaris* (Hufnagel), many *Poecilocampa populi* (Linnaeus), *Thera obeliscata* (Hübner), *Operophtera brumata* (Linnaeus), *Oporinia dilutata* (Denis and Schiffermuller), *Erannis defoliaria* (Clerck) and *Colotois pennaria* (Linnaeus).

With this satisfactory catch I had packed up my paraphernalia and was heading back to base by nine o'clock.

AN ADDITIONAL FOODPLANT FOR PHYLLONORYCTER MESSANIELLA (ZELLER).— On 10th July 1972, I found several *Phyllonorycter* mines on a young Copper Beech tree in my parent's garden at Higham, Kent. Three days later three *Phyllonorycter messaniella* (Zeller) emerged. Mines have since been found each summer and autumn, in some numbers. I have not heard of this species being taken on Beech in this country, although Hering *Bestimmungstabellen der Blattminen von Europa* (1957) does give *Fagus* as a foodplant.

On this same tree I have also found a larva of *Ptilodon capucina* (Linn.). The larva still retained its green colour and was consequently very conspicuous against the copper colour of the leaves. I am sure that particular insect never survived to see the rays of a mercury vapour lamp! — STEVEN E. WHITEBREAD, 2 Twin Cottage, Grove Farm, Nr. Rochester, Kent. 1.v.75.